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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
FDA, Forensic Chemistry Center, 6751 Steger Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45237-3097

## Memorandum

Date November 15, 2000

From Brenda S. Zimmer, Research Chemist, Organic Branch  
Forensic Chemistry Center, HFR-CER501

Subject Results of preliminary analysis of ephedrine containing dietary supplements for lead

To Fred L. Fricke, Director  
Forensic Chemistry Center, HFR-CER501

Analysis of selected ephedrine containing dietary supplements for lead is in progress. Preliminary results for analysis of FACTS sample number 86667, identified in part as "Metabolife 356", by using ICP-MS has been completed.

Preliminary results indicate that the product contains 1.09 ug/g of lead. The average caplet weight is 1.25 grams. The directions for use on the product label recommend 1 to 2 caplets, 2 to 3 times per day or ever 4 hours, not to exceed 8 caplets per day. Based on the lead content, the caplet weight and the recommended dose, this would result in an additional lead intake of approximately 11 ug per day if an individual consumed the suggested maximum eight caplets per day.

Additional testing is in progress.

Cc R.D. Satzger, Ph.D.,  
Director Organic Branch